

THE ECONOMY

EMPLOYMENT

The primary reason Maiden was founded, as is the case with most towns, was its employment or source of income for those living there. Maiden came into being around an early mining and foundry operation which was followed by cotton mills and woodworking plants.

The normal urban type economy is made up of two kinds of income sources -- these are "basic employment" and "non-basic employment." Basic employment is that which produces goods for export outside of the local area, thus bringing in new money from outside the area. Non-basic employment is that which produces goods or provides services that are used locally, thus circulating money that is already in the area.

Table 6 gives the employment by type of industry for 1960 in Newton Township, exclusive of the Town of Newton. (Data is not available for the Town of Maiden alone due to the enumeration methods used for towns with less than 2,500 population.) The most dominant source of employment is the manufacturing category which involved well over one-half of the employment at the time. This overall category was largely split between textiles and furniture and wood products, with only small portions of the labor group in other classifications. Outside of manufacturing the next largest single employment source was in construction, and this was only 5.9% of the total of employed persons.